

St. Joseph's College
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The Spirit

SJC Introduces Journalism & New Media Studies Major

By Jessica Jacolbe

St. Joseph's College prides itself in being able to provide well for its students academically all while keeping costs affordable. In accordance with its mission to offer courses that build a strong academic education, St. Joseph's College is now adopting a new major to its list of undergraduate programs. After seeking approval from the New York State Department of Education, the new major in Journalism and New Media Studies has finally come to fruition and is being offered starting this fall 2012.

As the name of the major implies, the new course not only takes a focus on journalism as a whole but also concentrates on the use of new media. Both journalism and new media work together interdependently. In a world where technology is constantly changing and evolving, it is important for journalism to adapt. St. Joseph's College is adapting as well by not only including journalism into its academic programs but journalism in partnership with media. To guide the courses and students, Theodore Hamm, Ph. D., formerly of Metropolitan College of New York and founding editor of the Brooklyn Rail, is there to be the director of the journalism and new media studies department.

Journalists remain students by learning new ways to report a story

based on how people are being informed of the news. The courses required to complete the major do not only focus on print journalism but on other mediums as well. People do not just read the news today but listen, watch, and "retweet" it. With the advent of social networking sites as a news medium, students of Journalism should also be familiar with the ways social media sites (such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube) are being used to report stories, as they are some of the most popular ways people find out breaking news. Other sources of news reporting that students will be exposed to include web video, documentary style, broadcast, and much more as the program expands and develops.

The new technological changes that have been made to the school benefit greatly the students of Journalism and New Media Studies. With brand new Apple computers available, students of the course are able to take advantage of its software to create unique ways of reporting a story while enhancing the "new media" aspect.

This major is highly relevant to today's changing world. St. Joseph's College, as part of its mission to prepare students for life after graduation, requires its students to practice what is learned in the classroom by putting their knowledge to work. One of the most important and exciting aspects of the course is

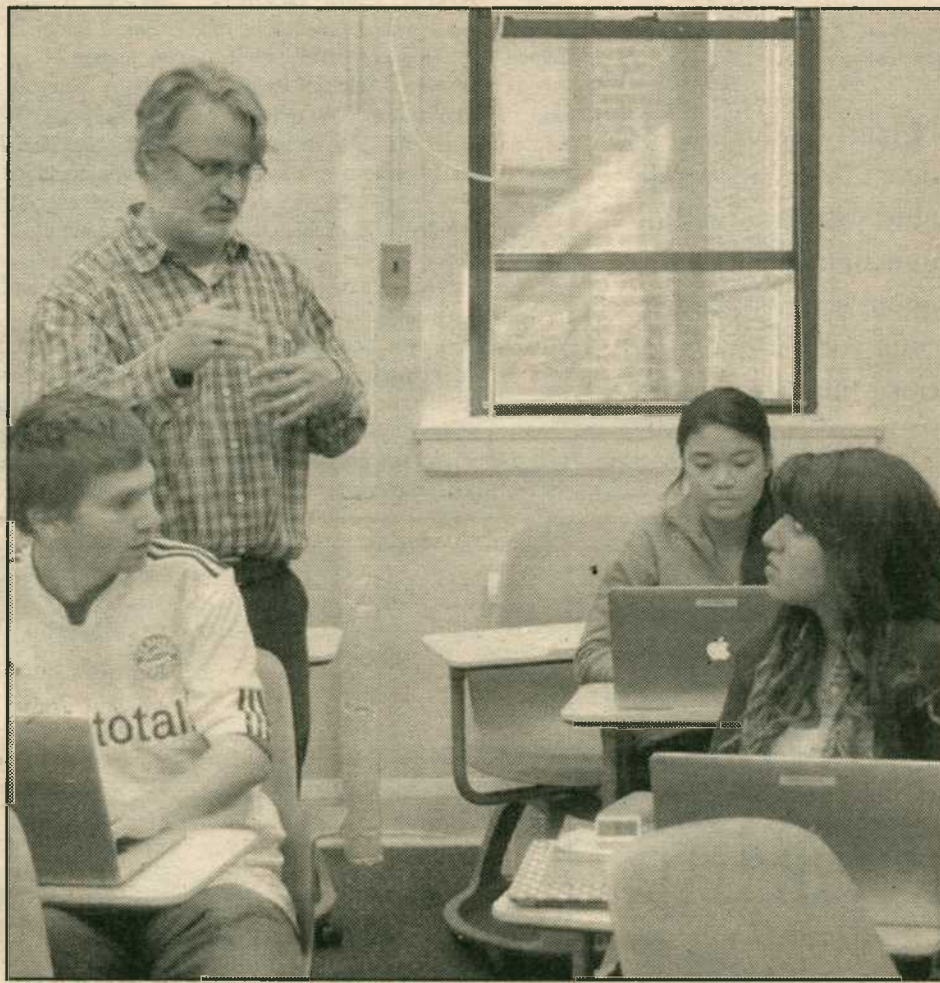


Photo Credit: Robert Jurman

Professor Theodore Hamm instructs the first ever group of Journalism and New Media students at St. Joseph's College.

that it has its own blog. Each of the students will write his or her own article regarding a local, neighborhood story, which will then be made available to the public. The blog is called "St. Joe's Report" (www.stjoesreport.org). Part of

studying journalism is practicing it, and in addition to students featuring their work on a blog, there are internships available to them at NBC and WPIX. As the major has only just begun, there is room and time to grow along with its students.

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Non-Major Courses: Headache or Opportunity?

By Gabrielle Hughes

As SJC students, meeting requirements for graduation is an obligatory component of college life; in order for us to leave with a degree in one or two areas of concentration, gaining some knowledge in areas unrelated to our majors is often necessary.

Non-major classes are the courses that tend to be disharmonious with our regular schedules. For instance, if you're planning to get a B.A. in Speech Communication, a Chemistry course would fall into the non-major category. Usually, they are designed for people unfamiliar with the topics discussed, providing fundamental knowledge of the areas being studied.

This semester, I enrolled in biology, and as an English major, the thought of science-related coursework made me extremely apprehensive. While a class titled "Current Topics in Biology" may be

laughable to my friends majoring in the field, I have spent the majority of my college career conducting lengthy literary research, and writing numerous papers on novels and their respective authors. As of now, prospective lab work and things like memorizing the process of mitosis are leaving me quite unsettled.

In some cases, non-major courses have the power to sway interests, and shift them in a completely different direction. Junior John Savarese initially planned to be an English major, but a pre-calc course taken his freshman year prompted him to change his mind. While sitting in the back of his math class, John saw that several of his peers were struggling to keep up with the lessons that were being instructed; "During review classes, I would help those around me, and I began to see that I was really good at teaching math. I also realized that I liked it a lot more than English." Following suit, John switched majors, and is now well on his way to obtaining a degree in mathematics.

As SJC students, we also have the ability to take

non-major classes at other educational institutions, including universities abroad. The summer before her junior year, Senior Adriana Peña traveled to London, and enrolled in both a history and literature course. As a bio major, these classes were clearly different from her regular course load, but having them in another country put it on another level: "You're not only exploring material you wouldn't have studied otherwise, but you're also exploring a brand new city." After studying early London literature and the history of Jack the Ripper on site, Adriana notes, "It was a nice break from all of my science classes. I encourage everyone to study abroad."

Although enrolling in Modern American Literature when planning to go to medical school may seem like a waste of energy, many forget that a college education is not solely used to prepare for a career. Higher education provides life enhancement, and a well-rounded and varied curriculum certainly encourages you to expand your field of interests.



Exploring the new SJC parking situation. Page 2



It's here! iPhone 5 reviewed on Page 5.



We sample the fare at a cozy neighborhood restaurant! Page 7

To FYE or Not to FYE?

Getting Freshmen Started On the Right Foot

By Bruno Merisier

For the incoming class of 2012, all students are required to take the Freshman Year Experience. The class itself covers common topics about student life and initial classwork; so far, student perspectives of FYE are very positive.

"Clearly, students deem this class a reliable source of getting questions answered about school, grades, or any other questions they may have."

When asked about her take on FYE, freshman Deirdre Slakman stated, "I really liked the class a lot because it made me feel more welcome... It also helped me meet friends, since I'm super shy. It kind of helped me come out of my shell." Another freshman, Michael Zwosta, said, "I believe it eases the transition into collegiate life. The discussions address our biggest concerns very well."

Clearly, students deem this class a reliable source of getting questions answered about school, grades, or any other questions they may have. Without it, many would feel inclined to fend for themselves for the first few college semesters.

As a freshman myself, I should add that the course not only acquainted me with SJC, but made me feel as

though I have the power to decide my own future. And sure enough, other students heard the theme of "now it is up to you to decide what you want to achieve in life."

For instance, on Monday September 24, the guest speaker for College Success Strategies, Arel Moodie, made it very clear that it was his own decision to find prosperity, happiness, and a good reputation; he filled the entire audience with humor, while conveying FYE's underlying theme: you reap what you sow. At the end of the day, the amount of effort you put into college is the amount that you will receive, and with that in mind, Freshman Year Experience classes not only make students comfortable at St. Joseph's College, but also gear student minds in the right direction.



Photo Credit: Zuri Terrell

S. Susan Wilcox leads a group discussion as part of the college's FYE program.

Off-Campus Parking

Can we adjust to the temporary parking situation at the Brooklyn Navy Yard?

By Lauren Kelly

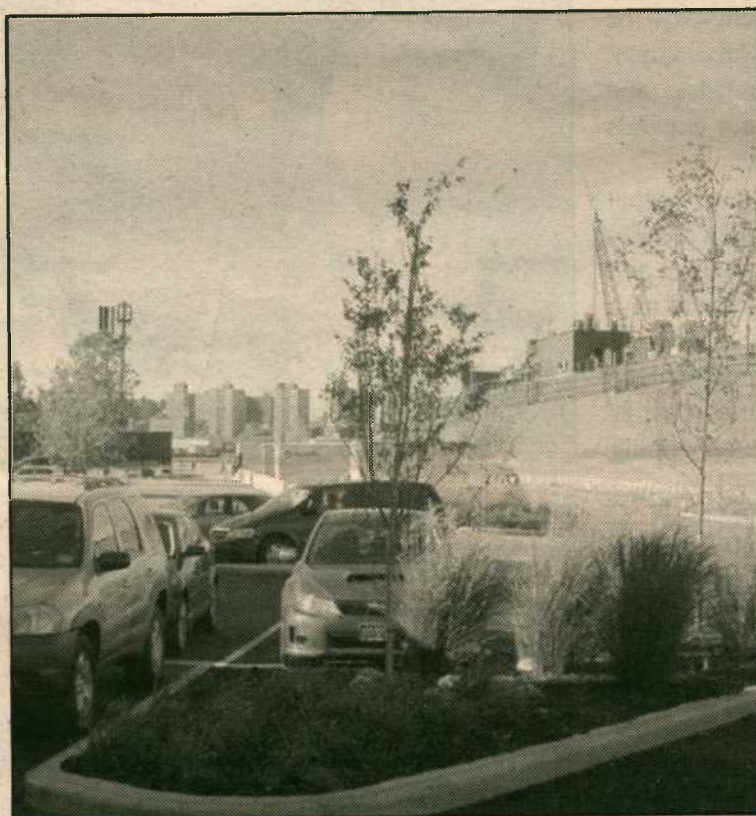


Photo Credit: Shannon Legg

Cargo ships and 4-door sedans sit next to each other at the Brooklyn Navy Yard's SJC parking lot.

Jaime Vacca-Hoefner, Director of Student Activities. In fact, parking at the Navy Yard has actually presented "less problems than with our own lot." Mike McGrann, Director of Security, had also braced himself for a "nightmare" once the fall semester started. "Knock on wood, there have been very little complaints so far."

What's the reasoning behind this? Have students truly accepted the new parking policy with open arms? Not quite. Many students have made the decision to look for parking on the streets first, rather than braving the trek to the Navy Yard. For freshman Samantha Nostramo, parking on the street is just the "lesser of two evils." "Looking for a spot is stressful, but it's even more of a hassle worrying about

getting to the Navy Yard in time for the shuttle, and then having to wait for the shuttle after class to get back to my car. It's just annoying and never on time, but you deal with it."

Parking at St. Joe's has now become one of those changes you just "deal with." While it now means waking up a few minutes earlier, and having less time to dawdle, or study in the library before class, it's certainly not the end of the world.

For as long as construction on the Brooklyn Gym continues (which is projected to be around Spring of 2014) parking will continue to be at the Navy Yard, and spots on the street will continue to be coveted. In the meantime, we can look forward to simpler days when underground parking, just steps away from campus, will be made available.

Majoring in Debt: Student Loans and Life After College

By Jessy Dangboonrueng

College is a must. A bachelor's degree in our modern world will now land an entry-level job with pay that a high school diploma once did. The problem is, how do students fund their education amidst a scary trend of skyrocketing tuition increases? What do students do when government budget-cuts lower scholarship, grant, and financial aid money? They take out loans, of course. Why not borrow money that one does not have and pay it back later? It may sound bright in theory, but a reality check on student loans may change your mind.

According to Bloomberg Business Week, the statistics on student debt are jaw dropping. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reported, "student loans have surpassed 1 trillion dollars." According to the Institute for College Access & Success

two-thirds of college seniors graduated with an average debt of \$25,000 in 2010. Being in student debt also triggers a domino affect on many other factors in a young person's life. The Department of Education reported that 40% of young college borrowers delay major purchases (home, car, etc.), 24% of students have their career choices affected by student loans, and 14% of young college borrowers delay marriage. Although many students in the past have defaulted their loans, several laws have been passed which make it nearly impossible to file for bankruptcy under educational loans. If loans are not paid, government can garnish wages or social security.

With the high price of a college education these days, it is no wonder students are compelled to borrow money in order to fund their education. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are hit even harder as many of them see education as their only way out of poverty. The big problem arises when debt increases run parallel to tuition increase, yet the job market continues to slump. Even the tuition for public institutions has doubled in price

over the past decade. Many students get into debt thinking, "Gee, this college degree is an investment that will allow me to get a high-paying career that will also pay off my student loans." However, the cold truth is that what one predicts or hopes for does not always become a reality. Having a college degree, even from a prestigious institution, does not guarantee job placement in this economy. With growing inflation, economic recession, and many other factors, many naive students borrow money that they may never have in a lifetime. So what happens when monthly loan payments exceed your monthly paycheck? Coming to the realization that you are struggling to make ends meet as early as the age of 24 is not a great feeling. Realizing that you are in debt as large as a mortgage when you don't own a home is not reassuring either.

"According to the Institute for College Access & Success two-thirds of college seniors graduated with an average debt of \$25,000 in 2010."

This is not to persuade readers to turn their backs against pursuing their degrees. However, be keen before signing off on any student loans. As with any contract to be signed, be aware of the fine print. Many educational loans charge high interest rates and have hidden fees. Most importantly, be financially conscious and realistic: consider your long-term goals. Although people tell you to do what you love because money is not everything, consider realistic questions like, "How likely is it that I'll get a job within my field of study to pay off my student loans?" Will you be okay with paying off loans for many years or is financial freedom your main concern? Consider your degree an investment that you want to yield the highest profit return. Are you going to invest in an education that does not pay off? Do as much research and gather as much information as you can in regards to financial aid, scholarships, and other sources of alternative funding. Whether you want to set up a lemonade stand to fund your education or borrow from the bank, always be sure to know what you are getting yourself into!

Student Life & Academics



Photo Credit: Kayla Johnson

Every month SGA President Maria Correnti, seen here leading a meeting of the SGA Officers, brings you the inside scoop on what's happening in your Student Government.

From the Desk of the President

By Maria Correnti

Hello everyone! And congratulations: we all survived September. This school year has been a hectic one thus far for Student Government. We were packed with events the whole month. Each event we held was indeed successful, which makes me incredibly proud of our student body.

First I have to say that Orientation this year was outstanding!! This was my third and last year as an Orientation Leader and it was the best one ever! Everything on that day was great. The weather was sunny, the excitement was high, and everything ran smooth as silk. It was tons of fun and I am proud of everyone who was there.

Secondly I have to say that Club Fair was a great turnout. The mall

was packed with beautiful display boards, eager club members and excited club hopefuls. Club Spotlight (the follow up to Club Fair) was also a great turnout as well. Clubs gained many new interested members that are going to be an awesome addition to the student life here at St. Joe's. SGA also celebrated Constitution Day this month and we had over 40 students register to vote for the upcoming election!

Clubs are blossoming and having their own great events that fill our common hours each day. Student Government is working our best to serve the students and student organizations here at St. Joe's. We welcome any questions or suggestions with open arms. We all understand how stressful college can be, which is why we dedicate our time to make sure you have the best college experience.

CALLING ALL COLLEGE REPUBLICANS!

By Robert Jurman

College Republicans is a National Group and is accepted and is active in many colleges around this great nation. Why? Because now more than ever the time has come to act, and the time has come to show St. Joseph's that Republicans are good middle class Americans who want what is best for this great nation of ours. This is why I, Robert Jurman, am forming a branch of College Republicans here at St. Joseph's College.

America has called. Our great nation has been through four years of the worst economy since the Great Depression. Her citizens have had to scrape by with high gas prices (still rising), rising food costs, new taxes (Obamacare) which will force businesses to cut jobs and profits by 50% and cut Medicare by \$716 Billion, a weakened middle class, an increased number of Americans on food stamps, an anti-business (big and small) environment, a national debt raised by \$6 trillion to make it \$16 trillion since the President has taken office (\$50,000 per American), stocks disappearing, and above

all unemployment above 8% and certain state unemployment rates close to 15%.

All of these grievances and issues have been "a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object [which] evinces a design to reduce [Americans] under absolute despotism..." (as none other than Thomas Jefferson so eloquently stated in the Declaration of Independence.) Therefore, as Americans, it is our time to stand up for what we believe in. It is our time to renew and restore our American republic. It is time to lower our gas prices by gaining energy independence, it is time to lower food costs, it is time to repeal and replace Obamacare, it is time to preserve Medicare and Medicaid. We need to strengthen the middle class, we need to slash our national debt, we must stop spending on stimulus and bailouts (which have never worked in history) while the middle class is hurting and sitting around the kitchen table wondering how they can get by, we must make a business-friendly environment, we must cut regulations and taxes on local small businesses (like the local diner, corner deli, pizzeria, contractor, grocery) so that they can open new businesses and not be afraid to hire new employees. We must also cut the corporate tax rate, so that America can compete with other nations

for jobs. We must create jobs so that American citizens can work hard and pick themselves up and build a new and prosperous life in which they can set up a foundation for their future generations to thrive and to gain more opportunity and wealth and liberty.

Four years ago, college students voted for President Obama because they believed in the message of hope and change. As today's college students, we all look forward to graduating, just as those students four years prior did. We hope, as they did, to get a job in our chosen fields and begin making a difference in this world. Most of those recent graduates, though, are still at home with their parents, because in President Obama's words, "shovel ready jobs weren't as shovel ready as we had hoped."

This is why it is time to finally form a College Republicans chapter here at St. Joseph's College. It is time to show this college WHO Republicans are, WHAT Republicans are, and HOW Republicans plan to fix things as they have in the past, when the Republican controlled House of Representatives gave President Clinton the blueprints to fix the economy, when Republican President Ronald Reagan fixed a similar recession and ended the cold war, when the Republican Controlled House of

Representatives pioneered the Civil Rights Act, not once but twice, when Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower created our interstate highway systems, when Republican President William Taft broke up more monopolies than any other president in American history, when Republican President Theodore Roosevelt created our national parks and the Food and Drug Administration, and when Republican President Abraham Lincoln fought for the liberty and unification of all Americans during the Civil War.

Now, it is time to fix things once more. If you are interested in taking a stand, fighting for what you believe in, and making long-lasting friendships with your fellow students, please email me (rjurman@student.sjcny.edu) in order to help to begin to create this club THIS SEMESTER. I am also calling on any professors or faculty members who are willing to take the stand with the students of this college to please email and volunteer to sign up as our moderator. Americans, Republicans, college students... I believe, if we lose this election, we lose America, so if you join me, I will personally be very grateful.

Little Monster Mash



By Dalila Tahirovic

In today's music and fashion industries, artists collaborate with different fashion corporations to promote their ideas by translating them into products and trends. Specifically, Lady Gaga has set up alliances with different businesses to promote her "unique sense of perception." Ultimately, there is nothing wrong with this; it is a logical course of action to take within the business premise of today's corporate and capitalistic society. However, one must consider the way in which such ideals are presented and whether or not they are sensible or rational.

For those who are neither concerned with nor aware of Gaga's career, she has recently stepped beyond the boundaries of "originality" by walking the fashion runway with a burqa - or the veil Muslim women wear that covers the entire body. In other words, Gaga is culture-appropriating the burqa, the symbolic and heavily revered entity that Muslim women take extremely personal.

Assuredly, there are many reasons why this is ultimately problematic, but what is even more disheartening about this image (and, personal opinion, Lady Gaga's mere existence as a pop star) is that the majority of her "Little Monsters" (or fans, for a lack of a better term) don't understand what her fetishes mean. They don't understand what it translates to or why they shouldn't ultimately support her decision in doing things like this.

For years, mainstream feminists have labeled the burqa as a sign of oppression. They have targeted Muslim women for choosing to wear the burqa (full physical covering of the body), hijab (physical covering of the hair), and/or niqab (physical covering of the face) by suggesting that they're attachment to such decisions is backward and problematic. Quite interestingly, these same women who have declared entities like the burqa as a sign of oppression are the very individuals who have little to no understanding of theology and culture and how those two entities heavily influence our lives today.

Gaga's decision to make this symbol of religiosity as some fashion "enlightenment" is culture appropriation; Gaga's decision to make the burqa a fashion trend is not only culture-appropriating the lives of many Muslim women, but it is highly offensive. As a Muslim living in the West (who observes the physical hijab) I find this fashion trend problematic because it stems from two dangerous entities that plague our societies today: ignorance (of the belief system practiced by Muslims) and intolerance (or being intolerant of one's values and beliefs).

Mitt's It

Romney Rolls Over the President in Debate No. 1

By Robert Jurman

67 million Americans watched the first Presidential Debate on Wednesday October 3rd. According to a post-debate poll by CNN, 67% of Americans believe that Governor Romney won that Presidential Debate. Even Obama donor and talk show host Bill Maher said, "Obama looks like he does need a teleprompter". On every issue, Governor Romney was unsurpassed by the President. The debate was planned to be six 15 minutes sections focusing on domestic policy; however, after the President's first opening answer Governor Romney jumped in right away and strongly asserted himself as the leader of this debate, putting the president on his back foot trying to fend off attacks. Throughout the entire debate, Governor Romney looked straight at the President while speaking and even while listening to his answers, unlike a nervous President Obama who always looked down or towards the moderator, which caused him to have the appearance of being scolded in school as a young student by the professor.

The economy, taxes, and Medicare

were the main parts of the debate after Romney took control. Romney blasted Obama on the economy and the National Debt: "Economic growth this year [is] slower than last year, and last

year before. Going forward with the status quo is not going to cut it for the American people who are struggling today." The President then accused Governor Romney of having a plan to lower the taxes paid by higher income Americans. Governor Romney hit President Obama hard once more: "I will not reduce the share paid by high-income individuals. I know that you and your running mate keep saying that, and I know it's a pop-

ular thing to say with a lot of people, but it's just not the case. Look, I got five boys. I'm used to people saying something that's not always true, but just keep on repeating it and ultimately hoping I'll believe it, but that is not the case, all right? I will not reduce the taxes paid by high-income Americans."

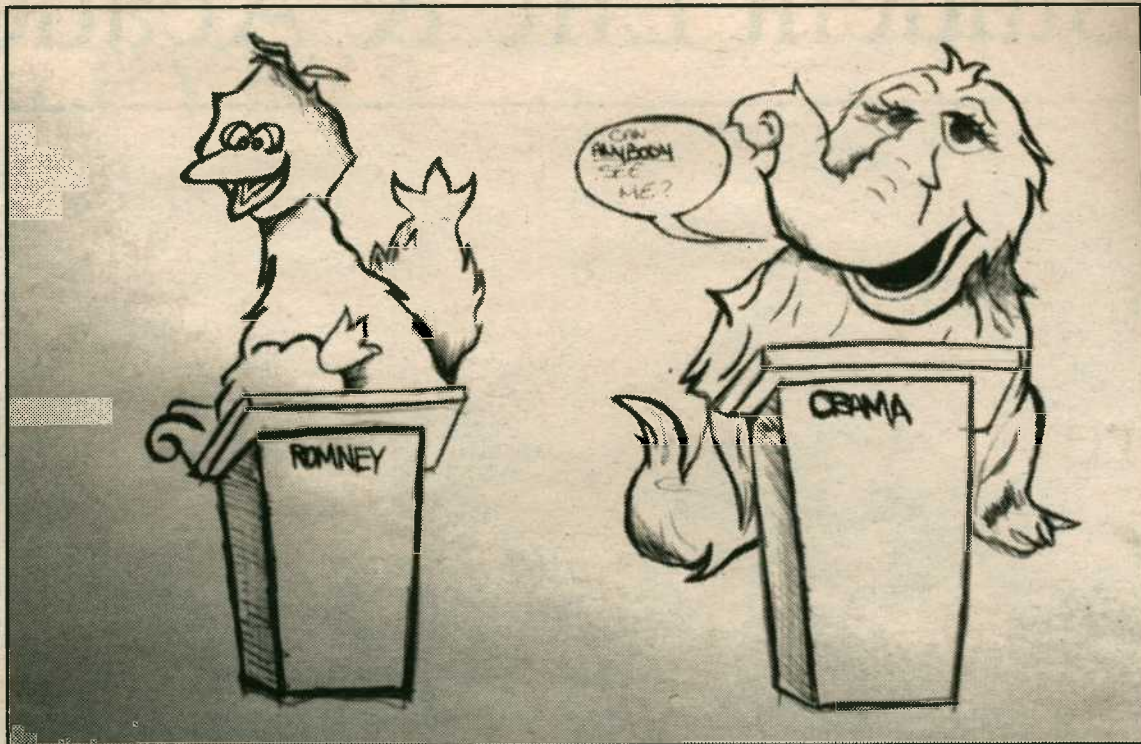
Medicare and Obamacare was also a big topic. When the President tried to accuse Governor Romney of raising taxes in Massachusetts and for passing an 'identical' Obamacare plan in that state, Governor Romney again fended off a failed attack and got in some punches of his own: "We didn't raise taxes (in Massachusetts). You've raised

them by a trillion dollars under Obamacare. We didn't put in place a board that can tell people ultimately what treatments they're going to receive. We didn't also put people in a position where they're going to lose the insurance they had and they wanted."

The entire debate was a fiasco for President Obama. Governor Romney was completely in control from start to finish. The polls prove it: just today (October 7th, 2012) the Daily News put out a Rasmussen Poll with Governor Romney at 51% and the President at 49%. Furthermore, in other Rasmussen Polls, Governor Romney is now either ahead or 1 point behind the President in key swing states. Only time will tell if Governor Romney can keep this up, but with his performance in the debate, we just might be seeing a new President in the Oval.

Whether or not the majority of Americans were offended by these comments, the position of each candidate has been made blatantly clear. Americans should no longer be confused as to where each candidate stands with regard to their prosperity.

During the Republican National Convention, Mr. Romney never made any statements along those lines - so harsh, rash, and blunt. His use of words were, as he says, more "elegant" and delicate. Yet, in the leaked videos, he refers to President Obama as having an unbelievable "persuasion and charm." Apparently, he has a dose of what the president has. It is interesting to observe with whom he chose to voice this new tone - 30 donors, not the American people. Granted, many candidates make comments they regret during private meetings or forums - including President Obama - but his reference to the unwinnable 47% sums up, in essence, Governor Romney's views as a conservative Republican.



Cartoon by Shannon Legg

47%? That's a Failing Grade

By Nerisa Bethel

I have spoken to a few family and friends about Governor Romney's controversial comments during a private fundraiser. The one issue on which we all agreed was that Mitt Romney voiced his belief. One cannot speak so fluidly and so intensely about an issue that is a mere slip of the tongue. His response that he could have said it "more elegantly," is difficult to fathom. He spoke from the heart.

Getting to the specifics, Mr. Romney said, "There are 47% of Americans who will vote for the president no matter what. They back him because they are dependent on government and believe that they are victims who are entitled to health care, to food, to housing" (Huffington Post). While I understand that some individuals abuse systems like welfare for personal gain, the majority of Americans do not do that. Now this statement is extremely forward. How does he know why the overwhelming majority of Americans vote for the president when he is sitting in a

room with 30 major donors? Has he not gone out and listened to the stories of Americans around this nation?

Aside from being insulting, the statements were almost like surrendering. He has accepted that he will not get through to those 47%. If they were unsure and still giving him a chance at their vote, he just knocked them down - hard. In fact, he said, "I cannot convince them to take personal responsibility for their lives; I have to convince the 5-10% of independents." His comments here are akin to a student faced with a challenging math problem and before even reading it deciding to skip it. Another issue that has arisen with these statements is that the governor seems to be out of touch. The majority of Americans do take personal responsibility; they work hard day in

day out for their families.

One of the donors asked Governor Romney why he doesn't stick up for himself more and ask the tough questions like, "Why is it bad to aspire to be wealthy and successful?" This question, in and of itself, is a false portrayal of the Democratic Party. Celebrities like Joy Behar, Barbara Walters, and Whoopi Goldberg aspired to be wealthy and successful, but they were all once on welfare and look at where they are today. It was a climb. Americans are not dependent; they just need a hand as they climb the ladder up to the American dream.

Governor Romney's comments come at a prime time in the election with about 44 more days left until voting day. This issue will surely be addressed in the upcoming debates.

"There are 47% of Americans who will vote for the president no matter what. They back him because they are dependent on government and believe that they are victims who are entitled to health care, to food, to housing." - Mitt Romney

COD Black Ops 2: Preview

By Zach Morrissey

While the release of "Modern Warfare 3" broke record sales last November, this year's "Call of Duty: Black Ops II" is anticipated to be even more monumental. The game is set in the 1980s during the Cold War, with players in the role of "Black Ops" protagonist, Alex Mason. During this time, Alex's relationship with Viktor Revoz will continue, but the story will then jump 45 years into the future, with the United States at war with China.

Other expected features include having Raul Menendez be the game's villain, Alex's son, David Mason, to assist in saving the world, and the return of Frank Woods, who we thought was dead in "Black Ops".

Some may wonder... just how many "Call of Duty" games can publisher Activision expect us to buy? Well, quite a few, it would seem. Sales for the game series, rivaled only by the aforementioned "Modern Warfare" series and a select few other franchises, show few signs of lagging anytime soon, and "Black Ops II" will likely be no exception to that.

A new addition to "Black Ops II" are the Strike Force Missions. With these, certain points in the game trigger changes in how the game ends, allowing players to have several different possible endings. This exciting addition to the "Call of Duty" series will hit store shelves on November 13, 2012.



Photo Credit: Jessica Jacobbe

Ready for its close-up, the iPhone 5 hit the ground running, selling out almost immediately upon its release.

5th Time is Still the Charm

By Jessica Jacobbe

It's that time of year when Apple's CEO, Tim Cook, steps out on stage to reveal the latest iPhone. This year, the spotlight belonged to the iPhone 5, the 6th generation iPhone. During the announcement of the iPhone 5, Tim Cook and his fellow developers flaunted the new features in an attempt to convince consumers that this is the best iPhone yet. However, Apple loyalists all over the world need no convincing, as anything that the company sells, they will buy.

The way Apple has developed its brand and marketed its products is unlike any other company, with it certainly helping that the products are state of the art and at the top of their class. For that reason, it comes as no surprise that, once again, millions waited in line outside Apple stores to claim to be one of the first users of the iPhone 5.

If you were wondering who would bother upgrading to the iPhone 5 after less than a year of the iPhone 4S release, the iPhone 5 has sold faster than any other iPhone. Two million were sold in the first hour of availability, and then the product sold out completely; five million were sold in its first weekend. Many have lined up to get their hands on it, and others have waited anxiously by their doorstep for the delivery man to hand theirs over, including yours truly.

Being a part of Apple's cult-like following is not the only reason people are buying the iPhone 5; it has a significant amount of upgrades in hardware, software, and design that are sure to excite any smartphone user. Most people were disappointed when the iPhone 4S was

released that there was no major design difference between that and the iPhone 4. However, the iPhone 5 design is sleeker, taller, and thinner.

During Apple's announcement, developers described the new design as being able to fit more comfortably in the palm of your hand and so they maximized the space with a larger screen display. If you thought that the iPhone 4 or 4S was heavy, Apple has found a way to make the iPhone 5 lighter and slimmer. The iPhone 5's back design is now made of aluminum, reminiscent of the 1st Generation iPhone.

One of the biggest complaints of any iPhone user is battery life. No matter how much Apple tries to fix this problem, there will never be enough battery life to satisfy all its users, but the company did announce that the iPhone 5 offers a longer battery life.

In terms of its performance, the iPhone 5 will be faster with its new LTE 4G and dual-core A6 chip. One of the iPhone's best features is its camera, able to snap photos quickly and record in 1080p. The iPhone 5 now has an HD front-facing camera and an installed feature that allows users to take panoramic photos, which was already available through the App Store for previous iPhone models. The iPhone 5 is installed with iOS 6, which was released for download on September 19, 2012. The new software means a more advanced Siri, making her almost a real person now, with the ability to tell you the score of last night's football game. Siri will also be the voice of the newly upgraded Maps, now with turn-by-turn navigation.

So is the iPhone 5 really the best iPhone yet? Yes, of course... until the iPhone 6 comes out.

One Word: Plastics

By Dalila Tahirovic

Azza Abdel Hamid Faiad, a sixteen year-old Egyptian Muslim woman, has found a new way of turning plastic into biofuel. Faiad, along with her mentors, has identified a new low cost catalyst, which can generate biofuel by breaking down plastic waste. In other words, Faiad has found a way to efficiently generate a lot of energy by reusing plastic, a manmade, non-biodegradable product (meaning a substance that is hard to break down naturally) into energy in a very effective manner.

For many, this is an ultimate achievement considering the amount of plastic people use and the amount of oil needed to produce it; in fact, 430,000 gallons of oil is needed to produce about 100 million plastic bags. And for Egyptians, this comes as great news because it can help exploit Egypt's high plastic consumption (one million tons per year) by making money from recycled plastic. Also, it would save Egypt a lot of money by decreasing the amount of loans accumulated for such funds. Moreover, it would help decrease environmentally toxic products along with not having to further alter the land or sea by environmentally poisonous methods.

Because of Faiad's discovery, she was presented with the European Fusion Development Agreement award at the 23rd European Union Contest for Young Scientists. Today, Faiad is looking to get her findings patented through the Egyptian Patent Office by scaling up the idea so that it can become a tangible project in the near future. And because of Faiad proactively getting involved with several organizations and institutions with regards to her discovery, she has sparked interest from the Egyptian Petroleum Research Institute, which is an important transition towards implementing her scientifically proficient solution.



Photo Credit: Lisa Murphy

Lady Gaga has her Little Monsters, but is she a role model for real women?

Movie Review: Get In The "Loop"

By Trey Norwood
(This review is endorsed by

A tightly written sci-fi film that almost no one has heard of, "Looper" is the best movie that you will not see this year. It's the third film by writer/director Rian Johnson ("Brick", "The Brothers Bloom") and his second to star Joseph Gordon-Levitt ("500 Days of Summer", "The Dark Knight Rises").

"Looper" follows Gordon-Levitt's character, Joe, a "looper" hired by mobsters in

the future, to kill people that they send back to the past. Joe is living the good life that all loopers lead until he has to kill Bruce Willis ("Die Hard", "Moonrise Kingdom"), who plays Joe 30 years in the future.

Rian Johnson's writing is some of the best of the year. The story is original, the characters are unique and thought-out, and the ending carries weight that continues with you even after you walk out of the theater. Johnson's directing is also phenomenal, with scenes making you feel as dizzy as the characters you're watching on the screen.

Furthermore, the cast is top-notch. Joseph Gordon-Levitt, who is made up throughout the film to look like a younger Bruce Willis, really throws himself into the role. His voice, and even some of his mannerisms, not only make you feel like you're watching a younger, cockier version of the film's central character, but also of Bruce Willis himself.

Willis gives one of my favorite performances I have ever seen him give, and in my opinion, one of the greatest all year. You truly feel for his character, even though he is pinned against Joseph Gordon-Levitt's

protagonist. Emily Blunt ("The Devil Wears Prada", "The Five-Year Engagement") is also phenomenal, but I won't talk too much about her performance for the sake of not spoiling anything.

"Looper" is a truly amazing film that probably won't get all the praise it deserves because of a lack of serious advertising; the theater that my friends and I walked into only had two people in it when we got there. However, just because you probably haven't heard of "Looper" doesn't mean you should skip it... you'd be doing yourself a serious disservice by doing so.

Lady G, Are You "Real" Enough For Me?

By Roseangela Fracchiolla

In the heat of this Presidential campaign, media tends to focus on the issues that alleviate societal tensions. For instance, celebrity weight gain is on the forefront of gossip blogs, trumping the majority of topics in current pop culture. While Big Bird may have fizzled into the abyss with other fallen memes, it can be said that focusing on celeb cellulite sightings does not alleviate any tension, because it IS, in fact, the tension.

When Google-ing "Lady Gaga weight gain" about 3.5 million hits come up. In recent weeks, media scrutiny has come down on Lady Gaga for gaining weight in the time that she is off tour, and not following a rigorous schedule. However, her status as a public figure has given her a plat-

form to launch a body image campaign, fully equipped with revealing lingerie photos to support her point. These photos help fans see the Italian girl named Stefani Germanotta, whose nose is so very European, and whose thighs are looking more and more American.

At the same time, it is frustrating for those truly dealing with body image issues, and are further silenced by the reality that is not making Lady Gaga appear "real" anymore. The glorification of celebrity body images has become so much of a fad that it seems to have subdued the point. Sorry Lady G, nobody wants to see your love handle-less midsection and your matching under-things. Instead of becoming another hit on Google, have a dialogue with those that need it, and not people that continue the injustice.

There is nothing more enjoyable than seeing Kelly Clarkson letting her "real-girl arms" do the talking as she stands on stages with her beauti-

ful voice and confident persona; she has never once turned it into a new love affair with Twitter. One must wonder if Lady Gaga's pictures never surfaced, could it have sent a message to mass media that empowerment comes from action, rather than reaction? This isn't saying that many strong female public figures have exemplified the courage to confront innermost issues, but the sad fact is that silently, more people are grappling with an eating disorder than not.

Moving away from the celebrities that yield millions in tabloid sales, news anchor Jennifer Livingston publicly took to the local news station in which she works with a rebuttal to allegations that she is a terrible role model for young woman because she is visibly overweight. When addressing these observations she called her attacker a "bully." By doing so Livingston hopes to be a source of encouragement, especially if her daughter faces similar obstacles in school.

Her statements received overwhelming support and showed that discrimination comes in many forms but it always results in a person being viewed in a way that has no correlation to who they are or how they live.

There is something empowering about women taking to media to emphasize their valid points, as nothing burns an opinionated person with hurtful thoughts more than someone who is willing to confront and ultimately dismiss them. Bullying and discrimination surrounds us so much so that it has become second nature, a part of daily dialogue that we do not even realize is there. Why not confront the issue, publicly, underwear clad, in front of your small town's population? At the end of the day, it's the only way to give those that have been silenced a voice.



Photo Credit: Thomas Rushin

Easy to mistake as a residential brownstone, Cornerstone is a cozy and delicious part of the Clinton Hill scene.

Restaurant Review: Cornerstone

By Christa Sullivan

On one of the last Sundays of the summer, I finally took a trip to Cornerstone, located on Dekalb Avenue and Adelphi Street. My boyfriend and I went on a cool, sunny, early afternoon, so we chose to sit outside in the gated sidewalk area (the restaurant also offers outdoor seating on the second floor patio).

The brunch menu offers a delicious variety, encompassing standards like pancakes, French toast, and egg dishes, alongside burgers, grits with salmon, and fried chicken with waffles. To enhance the food even more, the restaurant strongly supports local farms and agriculture, picking organic produce and serving hormone/antibiotic-free meats.

After a lot of debating, I chose the salmon and grits, which came with

toast, a side of spinach, and eggs of my choice; it was a large portion for \$16. The grits were just right: they had a nice texture, and the cheddar cheese packed in extra flavor. The salmon was flaky and cooked perfectly. My boyfriend ordered eggs any style with bacon, roasted potatoes and toast for \$9. His eggs were also very good, the roasted potatoes were well-seasoned, and the bacon was crispy.

By the end of our meal both of us were very satisfied and full. For a little over \$30, including tax and tip, we enjoyed an appetizing brunch outside; it's worth noting that in Manhattan, this could easily cost \$50 or more. I would definitely consider coming back to try their lunch and dinner menus, but if you're ever in the neighborhood on a Saturday or Sunday, stop in for brunch- it'll be worth your while.

Fall TV Season: An Annual Tradition

By Trey Norwood

As summer wound down and the first leaves appeared on the trees, the Fall TV season made its regular appearance back in our homes. There are plenty of new and returning shows on the air, providing something for everyone to enjoy during primetime.

Looking closer at what each network has to offer, one of ABC's newest shows is the drama "Nashville". Essentially a family soap opera following country singers in the Nashville music scene, the show was created by "Thelma & Louise" writer Callie Khouri, and stars Connie Britton ("Fri-

day Night Lights") and Hayden Panettiere ("Heroes").

"666 Park Avenue" is another on ABC's lineup, and probably the channel's most advertised new show. The series follows a young couple that offers to help manage a historic hotel, which is actually haunted, and causes a whole bunch of problems for its guests. "666 Park Avenue" was created by David Willcox ("Life on Mars", "Fringe") and stars Terry O'Quinn ("Lost") and Vanessa Williams ("Ugly Betty", "Desperate Housewives").

On NBC's lineup, "Animal Practice", "Guys with Kids", and "Revolution" are the network's big new shows. "Animal Practice" follows a vet who enjoys his patients, but tends to show some disdain for

their owners. The sitcom stars Justin Kirk ("Weeds") and the monkey from "The Hangover Part II" and the "Night at the Museum" movies.

"Guys with Kids" depicts three stay at home dads in their 30s, incorporating the situations they get into with their babies. The sitcom was created by Jimmy Fallon ("Saturday Night Live", "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon"), Charlie Grandy ("The Daily Show with Jon Stewart", "Saturday Night Live", "The Office") and Amy Ozols ("Late Night with Jimmy Fallon"), and stars Anthony Anderson ("Law & Order"), Jesse Bradford ("Bring It On", "Flags of Our Fathers") and Zach Cregger ("The Whitest Kids U Know").

"Revolution" is about a post-apocalyp-

tic world, where electricity no longer exists. The protagonist must team up with her uncle and a team of freedom fighters to rescue her brother, who is kidnapped by a militia. "Revolution" was created by Eric Kripke, the creator of "Supernatural", and stars Billy Burke (the "Twilight" movies), Giancarlo Esposito ("Breaking Bad"), and Elizabeth Mitchell ("Lost", "V").

Returning shows this season include "Parks and Recreation", "Saturday Night Live", "How I Met Your Mother", "The Big Bang Theory", "Two Broke Girls", "Modern Family", "Up All Night", and the final seasons of "30 Rock" and "The Office".

The Real Refs Are Back

By Marco Fuentes

After the Green Bay Packers devastatingly lost to the Seattle Seahawks with a blatantly blown call by the replacement referees, long talks between the National Football League and its Referees Association (NFLRA) have finally settled, as they came to an agreement regarding the horrible ending to a nationally televised Monday Night Football game.

This labor dispute between the NFL and the NFLRA arouse as a result of the referees demanding changes in new labor deals, and wanting pension after retirement. The NFL refused to do this, prompting further discussions to stall, and locking regular referees out. Accordingly, referees from Division III schools, even some from the Lingerie Football League, were hired once the regular season started.

With questionable previous work experience at hand, the jobs of these replacement referees were heavily scrutinized over the first three weeks of the regular season, mainly because it was apparent that they were losing control of the game, its rules, and its players. After weeks of blown calls, the fans and players were fed up, and started to examine the NFL's interest to work things out with the NFLRA.

Without a doubt, that Monday night game was the icing on the cake. The Replacement Refs affected the outcome of the game, as they missed what looked to be a clear intercept by one of the Packers defensive players in the end zone. Instead of ending the game with a Packers win, the refs awarded the touchdown to Seattle, and caused an avalanche of commotion by the fans, players, and the sports world.

In turn, the NFL was forced to compromise with the NFLRA, and provide a better pension for the duration of their newly signed, eight-year deal. Thanks to this, the real referees are back in action and for once the players and the fans can focus on football, instead of focusing on the ability of the replacement refs to officiate a game.

At the end of the day, there is one lesson the NFL can take from this: Never underestimate the intelligence of one's own fan base. The NFL's fan base grew so loud when urging them to settle this dispute, and protect the integrity of the game. Having angry fans and players is not good business for the NFL, and now that the real refs are back, it's time to sit back and enjoy football for the next eight years.



Photo Credit: Spirit Staff

Okay, so... we couldn't find an actual Jets fan. Imagine our surprise.

New York Jets: Early Season Returns

By Zach Morrissey

After his team ended the 2011-2012 season as a laughing stock in the NFL, Jets head coach Rex Ryan made it clear that he wants the 2012-2013 season to be one for the ages. It may be an uphill battle, with public perception after a series of questionable offseason acquisitions (none more controversial than the signing of back-up QB Tim Tebow) going against them.

The season began September 12th at home against the Buffalo Bills. 9 minutes and 23 seconds into the season Mark Sanchez threw a 9 yd. pass to rookie Stephen Hill for a touchdown, and the Jets shut the critics up with a 48 to 28 win.

Week 2 against the Steelers showed they were human, losing 27 to 10, a game in which Mark Sanchez only had 12 completions. Week 3 came with both good news and bad news. The good news was they won against their rival Miami Dolphins in overtime 23 to 20. The bad news: they lost star CB Darrelle Revis for the rest of the season with a torn ACL.

Week 4 was just a mess, and probably the low point of this young season. They lost 34 to 0 against the San Francisco 49ers. It was just ugly. Mark Sanchez couldn't find anybody. In the fourth

quarter losing 17 to 0, Sanchez threw to WR Santonio Holmes. Holmes caught the ball but went down and fumbled it. He never got up; later it was revealed he suffered a season threatening leg injury. By the end of the game the Jets fans in attendance had started chanting BRING IN TEBOW!!!

Things were not helped in Week 5, when the team suffered its second consecutive loss, this time at the hands of a Houston Texans team many believe to be one of the best teams in the leagues. The Jets at least made a game of it, losing by only one score and on their final offensive drive of the game when Sanchez was intercepted on a pass tipped off the hands of Jets TE Jeff Cumberland. Week 6, though, saw a completely different Jets team take the field, as RB Shonn Greene and a mistake free Mark Sanchez let the Jets to a 35-9 pasting of the Indianapolis Colts (trying to figure out life after Peyton Manning). Even Tim Tebow got in on the fun, getting on the field to make a few big plays, his first as a Jet.

This is a Jets team at 3 and 3 that is coming off of a big win but heading into New England to play the Patriots. Without Revis or Holmes, their playoff chances look slim at best.

Locking Fans In the Dark

By Antoinette Cammarano

Hockey fans across the country were left out in the cold as all of September's preseason games were canceled on due to an impending lockout. Looming over the heads of fans, players, and league owners throughout the majority of the summer, the lockout had been making talks between the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) and NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman extremely tense.

Bettman has had a history of causing unrest among the hockey community. During his reign, which began in 1993, there were two previous lockouts of the NHL. The 1994-95 season was cut nearly in half due to negotiations, and the 2004-05 lockout lasted an entire season, making it the first professional sport to lose an entire season due to unsettled negotiations.

History seems to be repeating itself as Bettman cites financial woes as the major source of controversy between the two disputing parties. Bettman believes the players are making too much money given the small hockey market in the United States; however, it was Bettman's agreement with the NHLPA to cap salaries at \$39 million in the first place. As of October 15th, all players will have 8.5% of their pay deducted.

Being promised a certain amount of money for a certain amount of work, and then being told some of the money had to be returned, would surely infuriate any human. NHL players, although making slightly more than an average citizen does on a daily basis, are as human as the rest of us. They are simply requesting what was contractually assigned to them.

However, Bettman and the NHLPA are not the only contenders in this battle. Large salaries would not be an issue if league owners did not lavish huge long-term, high paying contracts on megastars. For example, Sidney Crosby of Pittsburgh Penguins fame, signed a 12 year, \$104.4 million contract in 2012, according to Sports Illustrated. It was league owners who agreed to bestow this enormous contract upon Crosby, an NHL superstar.

Numbers and figures aside, it is the fans who are suffering the most during this lockout. The October 3rd game between the New York Islanders and New Jersey Devils slated to be held at the new Barclay's Center, would have been the first NHL game in the league's history to have been played in Brooklyn. Due to the lockout, Brooklyn hockey fans, who dreamed of watching a game on their home turf, have had those dreams dashed.

The best case scenario is a late start to the season, which would be immensely better than no season at all. Hopefully, hockey fans won't be left out in the cold for long, as the hope of any season at all skates on thin ice.